

Dear Anne,

A few comments are in order in response to Mr. Hudnall's latest attempt at revisionist history, published in the July 27th edition of the La Jolla Villiage News.

Calling the rock outcropping on which the breakwater was built in 1931 the ancestral home and rookery of the La Jolla harbor seals is ridiculous assertion with no scientific or photographic basis. Pupping season (Jan. -April) happens to coincide with winter storm season and any pups that were either on the rock area or the thin band of sand adjacent to the rock, that existed before the breakwater was built, would have been pounded by the storm action making it impossible to safely haul out, especially a newborn seal pup. Even the REAL SEAL ROCK to the north, which has been utilized by the seals for many years, is washed over by high winter surf and there is no evidence that harbor seals ever used it for pupping activity.

What is true, is that the area designated as Children's Pool was actually one of the earliest (1926) life guarded beaches in the San Diego area. Since the Casa Beach area was so well used by San Diegans, Ms. Ellen Scripps felt the desire to protect the youngest and most vulnerable, our children. She therefore generously donated the money used for the construction of the breakwater in order to save precious lives. The area is held in trust by the city with the specific duties to make it a safe swimming area for children, not to encourage tamed seals on the beach to use it as their "cat box". The "seal savers" care not for the water safety of children and direct them to other areas, with rough surf and strong rip currents, putting them in jeopardy.

Mr. Hudnall should compile a book of his fantasies and call it Environmental Fairy Tales. Who knows, he could be known at the Paul Bunyan of La Jolla.

Don Perry